



MPSCS BULLETIN

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Editor's Note

We would like to thank you for your interest in MPSCS. We welcome any questions, comments or suggestions you may have to improve the quality of this publication. You may direct them by phone to Ms. Kelly Maltby of the Michigan State Police, Communications Division, 517.336.6675 or by e-mail at maltbyk@michigan.gov.

MPSCS 6.0 UPGRADE TO BEGIN MID-SEPTEMBER

On September 16, 2002, MPSCS staff and Motorola will begin upgrading tower sites to the ASTRO® 25 6.0 IP Voice Platform. The upgrade process will begin in the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula and will migrate south in a zone pattern.

Motorola will lead this project with ten teams of technicians who will move simultaneously across the state performing what is known as a "hot cut-over." A "hot cut-over" indicates that much of the equipment technicians will be working on is electrified and carries voice traffic and control data.

Because radio communication is a lifeline for public safety, time and efficiency will be vital during the upgrade process. The teams of technicians will work in close concert during the evening hours, 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. to assure the upgrade is completed as quickly as possible. During this time, MPSCS tower sites will completely be taken offline, reprogrammed and brought back online as 6.0 compliant. Each tower should take approximately two

hours to complete. Mutual Aid ("I CALL") will be down for approximately 30 minutes.

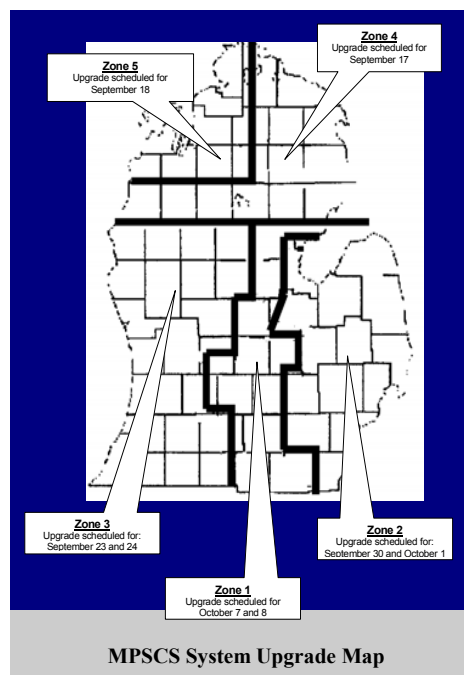
Once the towers are brought back online, they will be running the 6.0 platform. Because the 5.0 and 6.0 platforms are two separate operating systems, users in zones that have not yet been upgraded will be unable to communicate with users in upgraded zones.

The map depicts each zone boundary. It is anticipated that the entire system will be upgraded by mid-October.

Each member agency will be receiving specific information regarding the upgrade the first week of September. In addition to this information we have set up a hotline to answer questions and concerns. To access our toll-free number, call 1.877.846.4800.

The Communications Division and Motorola would like to thank you for your cooperation in this effort as we bring a more technologically advanced, feature-rich MPSCS

to our members.



HISTORICAL TOWER TO BE DISMANTLED

The Communications Division and local community members are preparing to bid farewell to a historical and landmark radio tower that has stood in northern Michigan for over six decades. The Houghton Lake Radio Tower is the final tower left standing from the 65-year-old State Police legacy system.

The tower was constructed in 1936 as one of the three towers that formed the old analog system. At the time of its construction, the tower quickly became famous as it was the tallest tower for police broadcasting in the United States and at 325 feet, the tallest point above sea level in Michigan.

The tower was also a critical component to Michigan

State Police communications for decades. The structure enabled the Michigan State Police Headquarters in East Lansing to communicate with the Upper Peninsula via a toggle switch that was activated at the Houghton Lake Post. The Houghton Lake Tower is scheduled to be dismantled sometime this fall pending FCC approval.

"The Houghton Lake tower was not only a landmark in the northern Michigan region, but was also a land-based lighthouse for motorists and boaters alike," said F/Lt. David Mertz, commander of the of the Michigan State Police Houghton Lake Post. "The landscape will certainly not be the same without the tower."

TRAINING UPDATE

Currently, there are no scheduled training dates for users in the Lower Peninsula. The MPSCS Training Unit will be training new users in the Upper Peninsula through mid-November.

If your agency has ordered new equipment, please contact Ms. Shonda Zilch to schedule your user training class at 517.336.6674 or via e-mail at zilchs@michigan.gov.

VISIT MPSCS.COM

OUR WEB SITE HAS BEEN UPDATED

Visit www.mpscs.com for the latest information about the system as well as our new user profile section that lists information about current MPSCS members.

FROM THE CAPTAIN'S DESK

New Project 25 Scanner Released by Uniden

Today, MPSCS subscribers enjoy the freedom of communicating with total privacy; however, just as analog technology advanced to digital, scanners capable of monitoring trunked communications are on the horizon of advancement as well.

In July, Uniden America unveiled its new digital scanner line for 2002 including base and handheld APCO 25 digital scanning models. The models are anticipated to be priced at approximately \$350.

In order to gain access to the APCO scanning feature, users must purchase both the scanner model and a separate APCO 25 card. The APCO 25 card will cost consumers an additional \$350. All models are slated to hit shelves in November 2002.



Capt. Thomas J. Miller

While actions cannot be taken to delay the release of the scanners, we will ensure that policies regarding the new technology are controlled by local subscribers.

Because communications technology evolves at such a rapid rate, the MPSCS staff will continue to research and inform members of any noteworthy changes or developments in scanning technology that may impact the system.

If you have any questions regarding the advent of Project 25 scanners, please feel free to contact Lt. Jack Gabbard at 517.333.5018 or via e-mail at gabbardj@michigan.gov.

Thank you.

Capt. Thomas J. Miller

ASSISTANT DIVISION DIRECTOR RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Michigan Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) recently announced Assistant Communications Division Director, Harry Warner as the recipient of its 2002 Michigan Special Achievement Award.

Mr. Warner will be retiring this fall after 37 years with the Michigan State Police Communications Division. His years of dedicated service to both the department and MPSCS well-qualify him for this award.

Mr. Warner is the only State of Michigan employee that remains since the inception of MPSCS in 1984. As project manager of MPSCS, he has carried out many duties that are proven integral to the development as well

as the future of MPSCS including the selection of consultants, the development of the original Request for Proposal, vendor evaluation and selection, bargaining and contract negotiations, and the hiring and organization of MPSCS staff. His technical expertise has also made him a well-qualified liaison to all MPSCS members.

Mr. Warner's hard work has set a successful foundation for MPSCS. His expertise and professionalism will certainly be missed. We would like to congratulate him for this award and for his many dedicated years of service. We wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

MPSCS ADOPTS MUTUAL AID DESIGNATIONS

F/Lt. Gene Adamczyk

MPSCS has adopted new Mutual Aid channel designations as recommended by the National Public Safety Advisory Committee (NPSPAC). These interoperability channel designations will parallel the international standard established for agencies needing to utilize Mutual Aid channels during an emergency or critical event.

The five Mutual Aid channels are designated as: ICALL (International Calling Channel) and ITAC 1, ITAC 2, ITAC 3 and ITAC 4 (International Tactical Channels).

Every MPSCS radio is programmed with the five international Mutual Aid talkgroups that are located in Zone "F." Prior to adopting the new Mutual Aid standard, MPSCS Mutual Aid talkgroups were

designated by "MA." The new "I" designators will be programmed into all MPSCS radios as they are upgraded from the existing Astro® 25 5.0 platform to the new Astro® 25 6.0 IP Voice platform. The upgrade will be completed statewide by November 2002.

The Mutual Aid talkgroups are analog modulation channels that are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to be used as nationwide hailing and interoperability talkgroups. These talkgroups are not intended for routine, administrative interagency communications. They are reserved for interoperability between multiple public safety agencies during Mutual Aid emergencies and critical incidents.

MSP RESPONDS TO DETROIT NEWS EDITORIAL

The following is a response to an editorial of MPSCS featured in the June 28, 2002 issue of The Detroit News.

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to the recently published commentary concerning Michigan's Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS) and clarify some issues and potentially misleading information.

The importance of an effective communications system for Michigan's public safety agencies is critical, particularly in light of the challenge of terrorism and homeland security. A July 8 New York Times article concerning the September 11 attacks made this point clear. Following the attack on the World Trade Center and the collapse of the first tower, police helicopters circling the second tower and seeing that it, too, was in danger of collapse, advised that first responders should clear the building. Twenty-one minutes later the second tower collapsed, taking with it hundreds of first response personnel. Many police officers were able to escape prior to the collapse, but fire fighters on a separate communications system and unable to hear the warnings were unaware of the danger until it was too late. This example demonstrates how critical it is to have interoperability in a statewide communications system.

Since 1996, the State of Michigan has been working diligently with our public and private sector partners to address public safety communications through the implementation of Michigan's Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS). MPSCS is the most technologically advanced two-way public safety radio system in the United States. It is considered a national model and is endorsed by leading authorities on public safety radio systems, including the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International (APCO) and the Public Safety Wireless Network (PSWN) Program.

Ever since Phase I of the MPSCS went operational in December of 1996, representatives from states throughout the nation and from countries abroad have come to Michigan to examine our state-of-the-art system and replicate the processes we have used to make it operational. Few radio systems in North America come close to matching the technology offered by the MPSCS. A rating by the Public Safety Wireless Network cited Michigan as one of only two states with the highest level (mature) of wireless interoperability.

The MPSCS is a mobile radio system. That means it is

designed to provide coverage to emergency response personnel and other users in their vehicles. Contractual obligations require the vendor to deliver a system that provides coverage over 97 percent of Michigan's landmass 100 percent of the time. If the vendor fails to meet this requirement, the state may withhold payment. I am pleased to report that, from the beginning, the system's mobile coverage has been nearly flawless, meeting or exceeding coverage requirements. When problems have surfaced, we have aggressively worked to resolve them.

While the original project cost from 1994 has increased to accommodate legislatively approved technology upgrades and the addition of local agencies to the system, the result has provided our citizens and the emergency response community with the latest and most effective public safety radio system in the United States. This same system is currently being installed as part of major communications projects in the states of Illinois, Minnesota, Colorado, Ohio, and Arizona.

Today in Michigan, more than 8,500 radios from some 171 local, county, state, and federal government agencies are being operated on the MPSCS. Many local and county agencies are currently considering joining the MPSCS. Based on expressed interest, it is anticipated that the system will host over 10,000 public safety radios by the end of next year.

The management of emergencies and disasters demands a regional response capability in order to be effective. The MPSCS is engineered to provide this capability. We stand ready to assist any community in developing interoperable solutions to link disparate radio systems. By working together to improve our ability to communicate across jurisdictional lines in a crisis, we can provide a greater margin of safety for first responders and the citizens we serve.

Any questions concerning the MPSCS should be directed to Capt. Thomas Miller, Commanding Officer of the Michigan State Police Communications Division, at (517) 336-6262.

Sincerely,
Colonel Stephen D. Madden

SUCCESS STORIES

MPSCS recently provided communications support to a multitude of public safety agencies in the Upper Peninsula managing the Rainbow Family Gathering. The annual event entails a large group of people traveling to various National Forests in order to practice and celebrate their beliefs. Although the intentions of this large group are peaceful, the massive influx of people to small communities usually brings with it a variety of crimes that require the special attention of law enforcement officials.

This summer, the Rainbow Family chose Ottawa National Forest as its annual meeting location bringing an estimated 10,000 people to Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties where radio coverage on the local system was virtually non-existent. The influx of people between June 18 and July 17 more than doubled the region's population and posed an immense challenge to local public safety agencies.

In order to effectively coordinate event management efforts,

MPSCS provided support by setting up 52 radios for loan to the Unified Command Team. The team, which consisted of members from the Michigan State Police, U.S. Forest Service, Gogebic County Sheriff Department, Ontonagon County Sheriff Department and the Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Police, were able to communicate throughout the entire month via a special event talkgroup.

"MPSCS has been critical to the success of this operation," said Incident Commander Malcolm Jowers. "We are deeply appreciative of the Communications Division for providing this state-of-the-art communications equipment."

If your agency has a story that demonstrates the success of MPSCS, please contact Ms. Kelly Maltby at (517) 336-6675 or via e-mail at maltbyk@michigan.gov.

MPSCS STATE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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Member at Large

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MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

4000 COLLINS ROAD
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48910



*Our Web Site has been
Updated*

Visit www.mpscs.com
for the latest information
about the system as well as
our new user profile
section that lists
information about current
MPSCS members.

**Michigan Department of
State Police**

Communications Division

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Northern Michigan Agencies

Clare County Sheriff Department
Montmorency County Sheriff Department
Roscommon County Central Dispatch

Mid-Michigan Agencies

Frankenmuth Police Department

Southwest Michigan Agencies

Berrien County Prosecutor's Office
Bridgman Police Department
Chikaming Township Police Department
Coloma Township Police Department
Grand Beach Police Department
Michiana Police Department
New Buffalo Police Department
St. Joseph County EMS
Three Oaks Police Department
City of Waterlivet Police Department